



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION | DIGITAL LONG ISLAND | EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Harry Williams (War Elk, left), Albert Ashman (Sitting Bull, center), Red Thunder Cloud (right)

Red Thunder Cloud, a.k.a. Carlos Westez (1919-1996), captured this moment after an impromptu dinner with his friends from the Shinnecock Nation after the Shinnecock Pow Wow in 1967. The [Shinnecock Pow Wow](#) celebrates its 72nd year this year and the event continues on Labor Day Weekend. The photograph shows Red Thunder Cloud to the right of an older man he identified as Sitting Bull (a.k.a. Albert Ashman), informally called "Bull" by friends. To the left of Sitting Bull stands a man Red Thunder Cloud knew as War Elk (a.k.a. Harry Williams). Red Thunder Cloud notes the white napkins visible in Sitting Bull's pockets and

describes how Sitting Bull wrapped up the food he wasn't able to finish at the Shinnecock Diner, where the three men just ate. The napkins held bread and left over pork chops.

Red Thunder Cloud notes he was moved to ask his friends to dinner from a premonition or fear that Sitting Bull was getting older and may not be around much longer, and this ended up being the last time he saw Sitting Bull. Due to that fear, Red Thunder Cloud insisted on taking pictures when Sitting Bull was back on the Shinnecock Reservation at the home of Stella Arch (1871-1969). While Red Thunder Cloud probably wasn't the photographer, given his appearance in the photograph, he is credited for arranging the photograph.

[In prior Item of the Week e-mails](#), it's been noted that Red Thunder Cloud was a controversial figure, and some of his captions express political views and word choices that probably would not be used today. However, Red Thunder Cloud's photographs offer us a wonderful opportunity to see historic photographs of people from the Montauk and Shinnecock Nations, along with images taken at some of the past pow wows.

EXPLORE MORE

[The Digital Long Island Collection](#) is part of New York Heritage Digital Collections. Included are searchable scans of deeds, drawings, etchings, inventories, letters, maps, paintings, pardons, patents, photographs, plans, postcards, prints, sculptures, sketches, textiles, tiles, yearbooks and more to come.

[The East Hampton Star Archive](#) is a fully searchable, online digital archive of our local weekly newspaper, that features each complete issue of the paper from 1918-1968, exactly as it appeared in print. Visit the archive online, for a tour of our Town's history that will fascinate both the amateur and professional historian!

[The Karl Grossman Research Archive](#) is an extensive collection of materials digitized from the personal archive of Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter, columnist, author, and current professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury. The archive brings together a decades long career in reporting and journalism with topics ranging from the economy and pollution to fishing and East Hampton Town. Patrons are capable of searching this 9,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

[The Local Artist Research Archive](#) is a collection of over 19,000 items digitized from Guild Hall, containing materials including personal letters, photographs, news clippings, and art catalogs concerning artists of the East End. Patrons are capable of searching this archive by collection, title, or keyword search.



Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week."

We are an archive dedicated to the history and people of Long Island, with a special interest in all things East Hampton and East End. Unlike some small local history rooms in other public libraries, we have over 100,000 items including, but not limited to, rare books, maps, photographs, deeds, postcards, letters, newspapers, and whaling logs. We also have a dedicated and hardworking staff ready to help you with any questions you may have. Unable to make it to the library? No problem! We upload images from the collection to Digital Long Island on a weekly basis, so there's always something new and interesting to behold.

Please visit us at the Library, make use of our extensive online digital resources, or contact us for assistance. Public hours are: Mon. - Tues. and Thurs. - Sat., 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Researched and written by Andrea Meyer, Librarian/Archivist, Long Island Collection.

Andrea Meyer began working in the Long Island Collection in January 2015. Her responsibilities include updating Digital Long Island, scanning, processing new collections, and assisting patrons with research. She earned her M.L.I.S. through Long Island University, and completed her M.A. in Archives and Public History at New York University through the dual-degree program. Andrea started working in archives in 2005. Prior to working for the East Hampton Library, Andrea worked at the New Jersey State Archives, at NYU Libraries, and as a private research consultant. Her clients included the New-York Historical Society. She is also involved with the Sag Harbor Historical Society.

andrea@easthamptonlibrary.org | (631) 324-0222 ext. 4 | www.easthamptonlibrary.org

